

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-07 FCC-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 USIA-15 COME-00 BIB-01 L-03 AS-01 PA-02 PRS-01

/052 W

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R 172130Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8065

UNCLAS OTTAWA 4290

POUCHED FOR INFO TO ALL AMCONSULS IN CANADA

EO 11652 NA

TAGS ETEL CA

SUBJ DELETION OF TELEVISION COMMERCIALS

REF OTTAWA 3990

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE IN HOUSE OF COMMONS NOV. 14:

BEGIN TEXT. MR. JAMES GILLIES (PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE-DON VALLEY): MR. SPEAKER, MY QUESTION IS DIRECTED TO THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER IN THE ABSENCE OF THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS. WHAT IS THE IMMEDIATE REACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE RULING OF THE FCC THAT IT IS REASONABLE AND FEASIBLE FOR BORDER STATIONS TO STOP SENDING TELEVISION SIGNALS INTO THE CANADIAN AREA.

MR. JIM FLEMING (PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS): MR. SPEAKER, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ONLY JUST RECEIVED THE FCC STATEMENT AND HOPES IT CAN HAVE A FEW DAYS TO INVESTIGATE AND MAKE A RESPONSE WHICH HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE FCC. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT AT THE MOMENT THE AMERICAN STATIONS IN QUESTION ARE LICENSED ACCORDING TO THEIR AMERICAN AUDIENCE AND THE REVENUE AVAILABLE FROM THAT AUDIENCE. ALSO THOSE STATIONS COULD NOT ACT, FOR INSTANCE, WITH ANOTHER UNITED STATES COMMUNITY CLOSE BY SUCH AS BUFFALO OR
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ROCHESTER IN THE WAY IN WHICH BUFFALO NOW DEALS WITH

CANADA. OVER THE PAST 15 OR 20 YEARS CANADIAN STATIONS
HAVE LOST ALMOST A QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS IN
REVENUE TO UNITED STATES STATIONS. THAT IS THE REASON
THE CRTC IS AS CONCERNED AS IT IS.

MR. SPEAKER: ONE FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY.

MR. GILLIES: MR. SPEAKER, IS THE GOVERNMENT MAKING
REPRESENTATIONS TO THE FCC UNDER CONDITIONS OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW ABOUT BARRING THE TRANSMISSION OF
PROGRAMS FROM THIS PARTICULAR SOURCE.

MR. FLEMING: MR. SPEAKER, IT IS TRUE, AS I SAID EARLIER,
THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL WANT TO RESPOND TO THE FCC.
THERE IS ALSO THE QUESTION, ASIDE FROM THE FCC, OF
INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING BROADCASTING AND
WHETHER THEY WILL BE CONTRAVENED. AS WELL AS THAT THE
CANADIAN COURTS AT TWO LEVELS HAVE UPHELD THE POWERS OF
THE CRTC TO ALLOW COMMERCIAL DELETIONS. END TEXT.
PORTER

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